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PRICE LIST OF NURSERY STOCK YEARS 1926-1927

John Robertson's Nurseries
Hot Springs, South Dakota



A Row of McIntosh Red Apple Trees, Headed Low

ANNOUNCEMENT

The year of 1925 was a very good one with me in the way of fruit production. Nearly all divisions of fruits bore a heavy crop, and we did not have any destructive hailstorms to damage fruit or growing nursery stock. The fruits produced in order of money value were: apples, over three thousand bushels; raspberries, 3500 pints; plums, about two hundred bushels; with a quantity of gooseberries, currants, cherries, grapes and pears in the order named.

New fruits bearing the first time, and which I consider promising are: Hansen's Anoka, and Goldo apples; and the Amur, Olga, and Ivan crabs. Of these, I've only a few Anoka in stock in nursery, as I seldom propagate any sort till it has fruited. Also have a small stock in yearling size of Hansen's Sugar, and Dolgo crabs, which I had learned bore good fruit in years before this.

All plums bore well, so I got further evidence in behaviour of Pembina, Ojibwa, and Tecumseh, which are some of the newer ones from Prof. Hansen; and the Zumbra cherry, which is a Minnesota product. The Pembina is a very large, fine quality plum, extra early to ripen, bearing a fair

crop, but not as much as Ojibwa, which is smaller and later to ripen; both are very hardy. Tecumseh is of fair size, good quality, very attractive red color, but hardly as rugged in tree as the others. Zumbra cherry should be planted in connection with other sand cherry hybrids in order to bear well. I consider that it may prove valuable, as there is some of the real cherry in its makeup. It is late ripening—along in season with plums. I still regard the Opata as most important to have in the family orchard; with Waneta second. All have good qualities, but Opata is the most certain annual bearer; though its fruit is not of the best for handling in a market way.

Fruit growing is the main issue on this place, and the nursery department is conducted as a small side line. All varieties are tested in the orchard as to their worth, in competition with many sorts of their kind, before any are propagated in the nursery to be offered the public. In this way, nothing but the best are offered. Then too, in this way we do not do such a large business but what I can personally supervise, seeing that everything is strictly true to name and properly packed.

I have a great liking and interest in this work. I thoroughly believe in it; and my trees and plants are not just sent out for the money value, but with a sincere desire that they will be a benefit to the customer. I write many letters to those asking information, but I cannot write to all as I would like. I appreciate hearing from those who have got nursery stock from me in years past, saying what success they have had. Those who have faith in me, and a desire to learn more about fruit growing in the dry lands of the Northwest, will find helpful articles at times in the horticultural department of "The Dakota Farmer" published at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

In the family orchard one should plant a few of most sorts that I list, but it is a mistake to plant very many summer apples or crabs, unless situated where the surplus fruit may be sold. Plant more Wealthy than any other single sort. Jewell's Winter is a later keeping sort, and a vigorous grower, but rather acid. If you are not above 4,000 feet elevation, and your soil and location is good, you may grow the McIntosh Red, which is a very high grade and good keeping apple. Plums, and small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, and raspberries, do well and come into bearing earlier than apple trees.

SIZES AND TRAINING

I advise choosing one and two year old nursery stock for general planting. Exceptions to this rule may be allowed where few plants are being set. Larger sized trees and shrubbery may be advisable in some special instances, but in common there is nothing much gained. Small stock costs less, is more easily handled and planted, and makes a quicker recovery in starting new growth. Then too, small trees are more easily trained in forming the top at the desired height.

Fruit trees should be headed low—within from one to two feet above ground. They bear sooner this way, and make a more healthy and longer lived tree. The oldest wood bears first, so the cutting off of each yearly set of side branches just makes a tree that much later to fruit; besides losing this part as a valuable bearing surface in later years. Low headed trees are less affected by winds and sunscald; and are more easily pruned, sprayed, and picked.

PLANTING

Early spring is the time to plant in the dry northwest. Apple trees should be planted not less than thirty feet apart each way, so as to allow for spread of roots in search of moisture as the tree grows larger, without competition with the roots of other trees or plants. After a tree becomes established its roots always extend as far in all directions as the tree is high, often reaching much farther.

As a rule it is a good method to plow the orchard site quite deeply, leaving a deep dead-furrow where each row of trees is to be. Dig wide and deep holes, especially if soil is hard. Use fine, moist surface soil to fill around roots, setting tree about the same depth it grew in nursery, but

leaving a basin of some extent around it to catch water from rains. This plan is especially good where there is a slope that allows water to run off. Do not allow basin to fill in by cultivation for a few years. When finally leveled up, the tree is some deeper than it was in the nursery. All limbs of newly set trees should be cut back about two-thirds of last year's growth.

One row of small fruits may be planted midway between each two rows of trees, and dug out in say ten years, when the trees will be large enough to require all the moisture that falls between. Some little crop, like potatoes and garden stuff, may be grown in the orchard the first two or three years, but never plant anything close enough to take the moisture the trees may reach with their roots. Never allow weeds to grow at any time; you need the moisture for the trees. These rules are mainly for growing fruits with the natural rainfall on dry subsoil land.

ORDER EARLY

Do not wait until it is time to plant before ordering. I make a tabulated list of all stock on hand, and each order is booked and its quantity checked from this list as received. As I do not practice the common custom of buying at wholesale from other nurseries in lines I get short in, when a variety is all taken that is the end of it. I acknowledge each order when received, and if there is anything I can't fill I mention it. This gives you a chance to get it somewhere else, if you are not too late. Then too, your order can be put up and sent, just a few days ahead of the rush. There are always plenty who wait until the last. The seasons vary, but as a rule we begin shipping about April 1st. Trees and shrubbery set during April generally do better than those set after May 15th.

PARCEL POST

Those living at a distance from the railroad can get very good service by parcel post. The limit in length and circumference of a package, combined, is now 84 inches. By cutting the tops back as they should be anyway after planting, I can mail pretty fair sized stock. Those ordering this way should make allowance for postage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Five of one kind, and ten of not over three varieties at ten rates. Not over five varieties allowed at fifty rates. Where long lists of one or two of each sort are wanted, they must be paid for at single rates. No orders booked or shipped until paid for in full. Send enough money to cover cost of sizes and sorts of your choice, saying if you will allow me to substitute other sizes and sorts for what I may be out of. It is not my intention to substitute without permission; but if you are very particular about this part you will favor me by mentioning it. The plants are fully up to the sizes given. I do not charge you for a large plant and then send a smaller one without returning the difference in price.

We do not try to keep hold of all the money we get, or perhaps keep you waiting another year until we grow something, but return any part due you, not later than time of shipping. Each one is notified by letter at time stock is sent, whether by mail or express. If there is anything the matter, in way of complaint when you receive stock, notify me at once. I do not replace "free" nor at "half price" but if I have reason to think there has been any mistake or fault at this end of the line. I will make it good, either in the price paid or in other stock.

Address all orders to JOHN ROBERTSON, Box 237, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

VARIETIES AND PRICES

APPLES AND CRABS—Named in the order of ripening: Yellow Transparent, Anoka, Duchess, Hibernal, Wealthy, McIntosh Red, Jewell's Winter, and the Ben Davis or Gano; and the crabs: Whitney, Florence, Dolgo, and Sugar.

2 to 3 feet size, 30c each; per 10 \$2.75; per 100 \$25.00.

3 to 4 feet size, 50c each; per 10 \$4.50; per 100 \$35.00.

4 to 6 feet size, 70c each; per 10 \$6.00; per 100 \$50.00.

X We have a few Victor Sweet, Cortland, Lobo, Monona, Salome, Windsor Chief, and others, that are promising sorts. The Windsor is a late

keeping high grade apple, of fine color, and the Salome is a late keeper, that does very well.

CHERRIES—We have a few Zumbra to offer in 2 to 3 feet size, at 50c each; and some of the common black in 3 to 4 feet size, at 50c each; 10 of either kind for \$4.50.

PLUMS—I have the Opata, Sapa, Waneta, Kaga, Pembina, Ojibwa, Tecumseh and a few in several other apparently good sorts to offer as follows: 2 to 3 feet, 50c each; per 10, \$4.50; 3 to 5 feet, 70c each; per 10, \$6.50.

GOOSEBERRIES—The Carrie is one of the most generally successful, and a dependable annual bearer. The Josselyn is very large, and a heavy bearer after becoming well established. Price, strong two year old plants 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

CURRANTS—The Wilder, Diploma, and Perfection are of the largest size, and of about the same time in ripening. The Franco-German is smaller, but later to ripen, and is one of the most vigorous under hard conditions. The Wilder has been my leader as a market sort for years, and I have a larger stock of plants in it than in the others. Price, strong 2-year old plants at 25c each; per 10, \$2.00. Smaller plants at 20c each; per 10, \$1.50. Good average plants, per 25, \$3.50.

RASPBERRIES—The Latham is my leader as a red sort for market, and can supply plants of this sort in quantity. Also have a few plants in Sunbeam, and Loudon, red sorts; and the Honeysweet, black. Price, good plants, 15c each; per 10, \$1.00; per 25, \$2.00; per 50, \$3.00; per 100, \$5.00. Can only supply Sunbeam, Loudon, and Honeysweet at single and 10 rates.

STRAWBERRIES—The strawberry is a shallow rooted plant that I've not been able to grow runner plants in paying quantity without irrigation, so I do not offer them for sale.

ASPARAGUS—Easy to grow, and should be in every garden. Price, 2-year old plants, per 25, 50c; per 100, \$1.50.

RHUBARB—Large wine plant variety. Division roots; Price, 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

PURPLE AND WHITE LILACS—Price, strong plants, 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

ROSES—Rosa Rugosa, and Tetonkaha. Both hardy without winter protection. Price, 40c each; per 10, \$3.50.

PEONIES—Festiva Maxima, white; Rubra Superba, red; and a few other sorts of various colors. State color wanted, and a named sort will be sent to fit. Price, 50c per plant from division roots.



Apple Picking Time in the Robertson Orchard